## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17581 271506Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-09 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /102 W

-----096365 281220Z /43

R 271458Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4841

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLOSACLANT NORFOLK

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNMR SHAPE BE

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

USMISSION USNATO

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

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USEEC

USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, SOPN, UR, NO

SUBJECT: PRAVDA ON NORWEGIAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 187973 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1. PRAVDA OF JULY 27 CARRIES A REPORT BY ITS
CORRESPONDENT IN OSLO, YU. KUZNETSOV, ENTITLED
"MUCH NOISE OVER NOTHING." KUZNETSOV REPORTS THAT
RECENTLY A CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN LAUNCHED TO WHIP
UP ANTI-SOVIET FEELING IS UNDERWAY BASED ON "ABSURD

STATEMENTS CONCERNING SOME KIND OF 'HOSTILE INTENTIONS' OF SOVIET MERCHANT SHIPS, WHICH ARE FOLLOWING THEIR USUAL ROUTES ALONG THE COAST OF NORTHERN NORWAY." KUZNETSOV CITES STATEMENTS BY LOS MINISTER EVENSEN AND THE NORWEGIAN PRESS ALLEGEDLY MINIMIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SITUATION AND BLAMES NATO FIGURES FOR SPREADING "SUCH PROVOCATIVE, ANTI-SOVIET FABRICATIONS."

2. COMMENT: THIS REPORT, THE FIRST PUBLIC
SOVIET ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES
WITH NORWAY, GIVES NO INDICATION OF MOSCOW'S
INTENTIONS IN THIS SITUATION BEYOND A DESIRE TO
DENY ITS CULPABILITY.
WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO
OBTAIN SOME INSIGHT INTO SOVIET MOTIVES (REFTEL)
FROM LOCAL SOURCES. TOON

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NNN

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